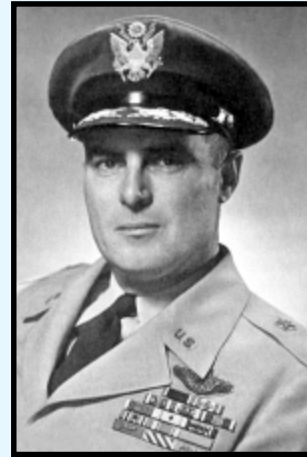


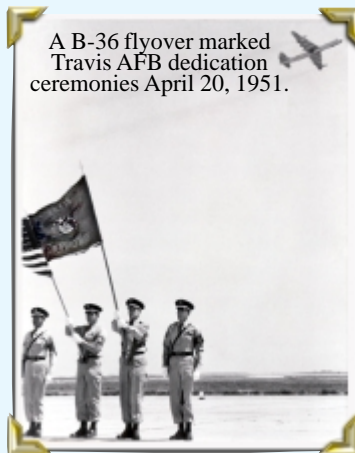


Members of the family: left to right are Mrs. Robert J. Travis and her husband Major General Travis (ret.), Mrs. Edmund A. White, Mrs. Robert F. Travis, Jayne Travis and Lt Col. William Travis.

## 50th Anniversary of the Naming of Travis Air Force Base



**Brigadier General Robert F. Travis  
1904-1950**



A B-36 flyover marked Travis AFB dedication ceremonies April 20, 1951.

Brigadier General Robert F. Travis' untimely death in a tragic crash of a B-29 on August 5, 1950 cut short a brilliant military career that had begun with his graduation from West Point in June 1928. An accomplished military aviation engineer and command pilot, Travis saw action in World War II as commander of the 41<sup>st</sup> Combat Wing in England. He personally led his men in 35 combat missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. The decorations that he received included the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with three clusters, the French Croix de Guerre with palm, the Legion d'Honneur, and the Purple Heart.

Scion of a prominent military family (his father was an Army general), Travis was born in Georgia in 1904. He assumed his first command at Hickam Field, Honolulu in June 1939 as commander of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Squadron. He received his brigadier general's star in September 1944 after assuming command of the 41<sup>st</sup> Combat Wing in Europe. He was then reassigned to Hickam, this time as Commanding General, Pacific Air Command. His brilliant wartime bombing record and rapid rise in rank made him an obvious choice to supervise the Strategic Air Command's development of Fairfield-Suisun AFB in 1949. Attaining command of both SAC wings at the base granted him an additional distinction during his tenure there.

Brigadier General Travis' popularity and the effect of his death in such a terrible accident led local civilian leaders and base officials alike to propose renaming the base in his honor. Their proposal was favorably received in Washington and on October 20, 1950 Fairfield-Suisun AFB became Travis AFB. California Governor Earl Warren presided over the formal dedication ceremonies, which many dignitaries and members of the Travis family attended, on April 20, 1950.



Unveiling the portrait in honor of Brigadier General Travis.



Notables on the reviewing stand.



Officers and Airmen pass in review.